Unwarranted Increases in Milk Prices

386. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'the Statesman' of the 10th February, 1989 regarding widespread consumer dissatisfaction over the unwarranted increases in milk prices by Government Dairies in Delhi; and

(b) whether Government propose to ask MRTPC and National Consumer Commission as also State Consumer Bodies to review this question *suo moto* as provided for under Consumers Protection Act and rules framed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, the increase in prices of milk sold by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy, Delhi was necessitated by:

(i) Higher procurement prices of fresh milk paid to rural producers.

(ii) Increase in the prices of conserved commodities like Butter Oil, Skim Milk Powder and Butter used for recombination.

(iii) Increase in other operating and overhead costs.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of Government.

Import of Scrap for Mini Steel Plants

387. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mini Steel Industry has requested Government to wave customs duty on scrap imports and cut in excise duty in addition to regular supply of raw materials and if so, Government decision in the matter (F.E. 29-1-89); and

(b) whether Mini Steel Industry is also plagued with power shortages and if so, details thereof and corrective steps taken/proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration. As regards supply of raw material Government has taken steps to import scrap to meet the demands of the Industry to the extent possible.

(b) Electric power shortage and erratic power supply do affect the mini steel industry. The situation differs from State to State. Medium and long term resources to increase generating capacity and improve power supply will help in the matter.

Introduction of Three Tier Panchayat Raj System in all State

388 SHRI BAIKUNTHAH NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce three tier Panchayat Raj system in all the States;

(b) if so, by when the new Panchayat Raj system would be introduced; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The matter relating to revitalisation of Panchayati Raj system in the country is under active consideration of the Government.